

**TESTIMONY**

**H.B. 5078 AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS**

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Good Afternoon Legislators and member of the committee on education. Thank you for this opportunity to speak about the Common Core Bill HB 5078. My name is Jennifer Scanlan and I am one a reading teachers in Stamford. I have been an educator for 13 years I am opposed to the bill.

Teachers have always taught to standards; however the Common Core State Standards has shifted the way teachers teach. While these standards are more rigorous and go more in depth, they allow for teachers to go deep with their teaching instead of just trying to scratch the surface. Teachers are now able to teach a mile deep instead of a mile wide. The standards are clear, focused, and easy for teachers and students to understand. These standards encourage teachers to collaborate, develop and share lessons, resources, and best practices in the classroom. This allows teachers to more easily individualize instruction to meet student needs and frees them up to create new, innovative and more effective ways to actively engage students in the learning process.

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The common core has been beneficial for our students. Stamford has such a diverse population with 63 different languages spoken and 49% of our children receive free or reduced lunch, which the common core works for all the learning needs we have here. The CCSS promotes creative and critical thinking over rote memorization. They prepare students with the collaboration, creativity, and communication skills that the workplace demands. By developing students' ability to think, reason and problem solve, they can internalize their knowledge and apply it to various situations rather than just regurgitate it for a test. Common Core better prepares students for success at every grade level and after graduation from high school.

Stamford Public Schools has worked hard to start the implementation of the Common Core and these shifts. Stamford put together a team of teachers, coaches, administrators, and central office staff to attend the Common Core Immersion Institute sponsored by the Student Achievement Partners. At the Institute, this team was educated and immersed in the standards. We received first hand experience about what exactly is close reading and

text dependent questions. We looked about real Common Core lessons exemplars and discussed how we can bring this back to our district. We even got PowerPoint presentations to share not only with staff, but with our parents, and the community on what is the Common Core and we used these resources to educate them. We received tools to aid us in writing our curriculum and making sure that it is aligned to the common core. I am one of the lucky people to be a part of this team.

We have used these resources with our schools and have received positive feedback not only from the teachers but more importantly from our students. One story I would like to share is from one of my intervention groups, I was doing a close read on a fabulous book called Protecting the Kakapo. This text was a non-fiction text about these birds that once almost became extinct and what people did to save them. The children were so invested in these birds that they wanted to have a bake sale in order to raise money for these birds and send it to the organization. After we finished the book, the kids all wanted to use the iPads to research more information about them. This is an example of how the common core standards engaged our students. Thank you for your time today!